Nixon to Visit LBJ For Talk on Paris

Associated Press

Richard Nixon renders—with feeling—his version of "Deep in the Heart of Texas" as he tunes up on Miami Beach piano for visit to President Johnson's ranch.

Nixon: 'Agnew's Got It'

By Ward Just
Washington Post Staff Writer

KEY BISCAYNE, Fla., Aug. 9—Richard M. Nixon gave a spirited defense of his controversial vice presidential nominee, Gov. Spiro T. Agnew, today at an impromptu hour-long pree conference in the lobby of a resort hotel here.

Nixon cited the Maryland Governor's expertise and familiarity with urban problems, described him as a man of "old fashioned patiotism," and declared he was "the most under-estimated politician in America."

Agnew, Nixon said, was the best available man. He had "come through the fires," by which Nixon apparently meant that Agnew—the son of Greek immigrant parents—had risen, as Nixon had, from a modest background to a position of power and influence.

"The guy has got it or he doesn't," the Republican nominee said. "If he doesn't, then Nixon has made a bum choice." But Nixon made clear that he thought he had made a wise one.

The press conference came as Nixon strolled into

See NOMINEE, A8, Col. 5

Agnew's Got It, Nixon Exclaims

NOMINEE, From A1

the lobby of the Key Biscayne Hotel, where he had invited journalists to a buffet lunch. One of his aides got him an iced coffee, and for more than an hour he stood surrounded by reporters asking questions.

The former Vice President said he first spoke with Agnew last January, at a dinner at his apartment in New York. "There is a mysticism about men," Nixon said in discussing why he found Agnew an attractive candidate. "There is a quiet confidence. You can look him in the eye and you say, 'He's got it.' "

Nixon said he intended for Agnew to be something of a lightning rod, undertaking appearances. He said the Maryland Governor's adroit handling of news conferences was a major factor in his selection.

In a long discussion of what is called "the new politics," Nixon said he defined it as "dialogue." He said he intended to begin the dialogue with the urban poor when he campaigned in city ghettos, although he indicated he would not campaign door to door. He brushed aside the question of his personal safety, saying he was not afraid.

Exuding a confidence that was almost euphoria, Nixon disclosed that private polls showed that while 75 per cent of Americans want law and order, 75 per cent also want "compassion." He indicated that his campaign would stress all three—law, order and compassion—in the manner of last night's acceptance speech to the Republican Convention.

"I am filled with confidence," he said, in answer to a question about the election. He said he would not "demagogue" the race issue, "because we couldn't govern if we demagogued." There would be race war as a result, he indicated.

Nixon said that he and Hubert H. Humphrey, the man he regards as the likely Democratic nominee, might meet later to discuss the handling of the race issue in the campaign.

"The South wants to come back into the United States," Nixon said at one point, arguing that "no one wants to be mad, to hate." He indicated again that his campaign would be one that stressed American unity.

The hotel orchestra was playing "Nixon's The One," his campaign theme song (the tune for which was taken from "Take Me Along") while Nixon talked with reporters. He was conservatively dressed in a blue sports coat and grey flannel trousers.

Later Nixon took a brief turn at the piano himself while his guests gathered around and sang "Let Me Call You Sweetheart" and Home on the Range."

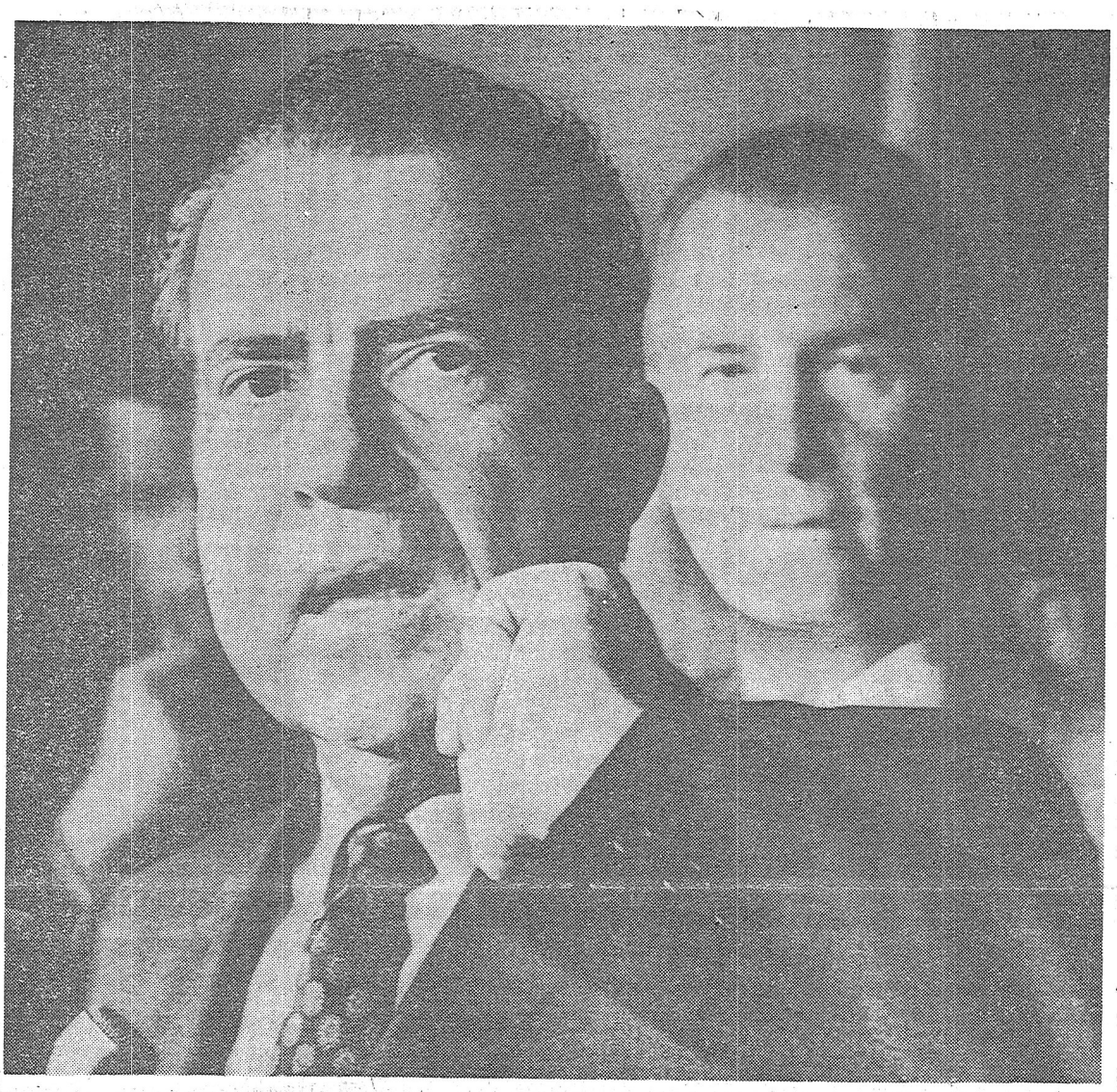
One of Nixon's guests was evangelist Billy Graham, dressed in orange shirt and yellow slacks.

At the ouset of the informal session a reporter asked Nixon why he did not consult New York Gov. Nelson Rockefeller on his selection of Gov. Agnew.

"I think they (the staff) checked Rockefeller," Nixon said.

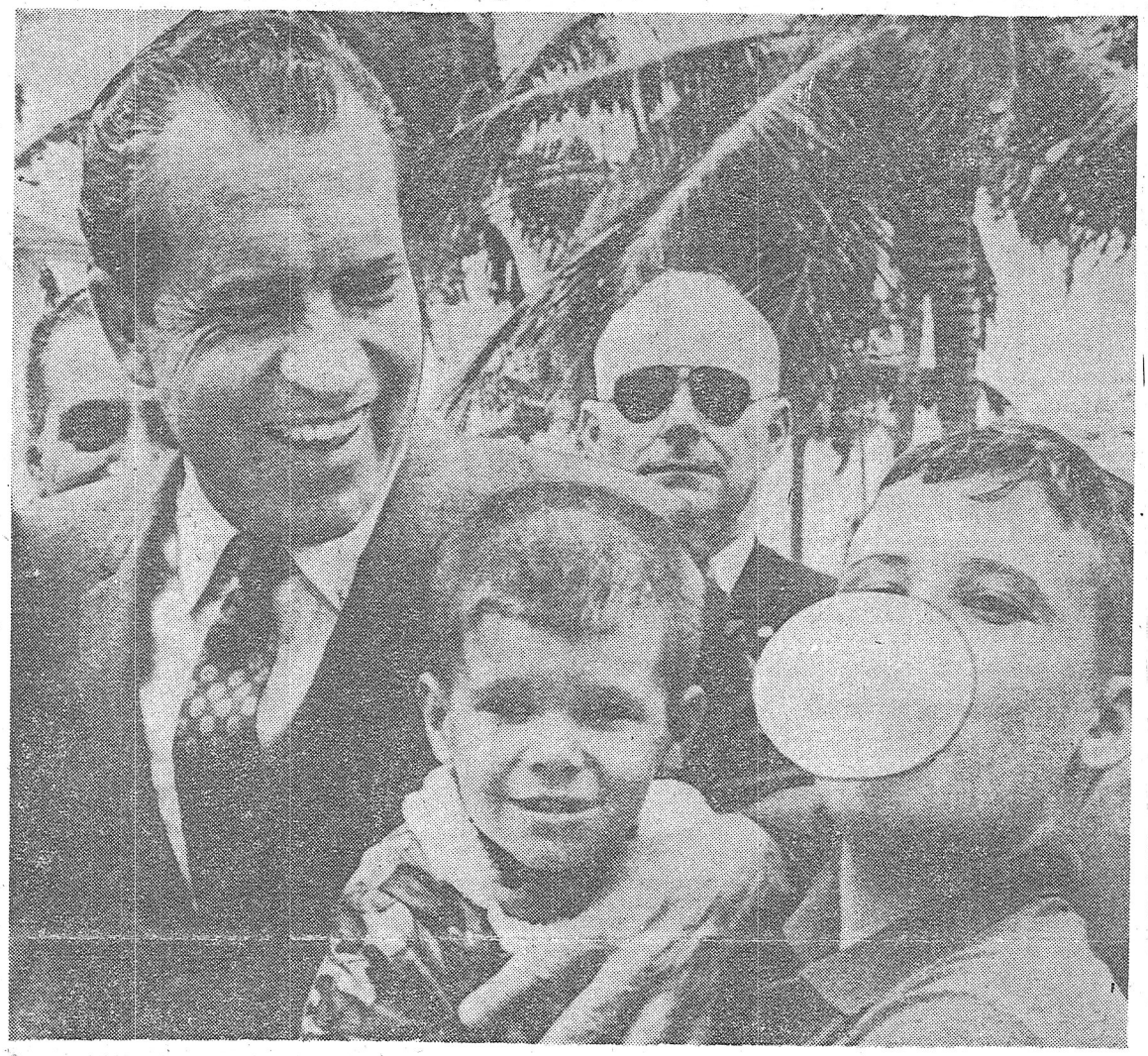
"No, sir, they didn't," the reporter said. Nixon smiled a short, slight smile. "Well," he said, "that's too bad."

At another point, a reporter remarked that he and Vice President Humphrey appeared to have the same political assets and liabilities. No, Nixon joked, "I'm not a pharmacist."



Associated Press

GOP presidential nominee Richard M. Nixon announces he has dropped plans for a trip to Russia before the election. Standing behind Nixon at Miami Beach press session is his running mate, Maryland Gov. Spiro T. Agnew.



Associated Press

Bubbling

Richard M. Nixon visited his Key Biscayne retreat near Miami yesterday and was greeted by Paul Canter, 3, and bubble-blower Dwight Dessort, 12.